AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

--1. (Currently Amended) A portable information terminal including:

an upper half portion having a screen-arranged surface and a back surface, wherein a display screen of a display device is disposed at ~~one~~ said screen-arranged surface ~~side thereof~~;

a lower half portion including an input key array of ~~plural~~ a plurality of input keys arranged on ~~one~~ a key-arranged surface thereof and a controller ~~which is~~ provided in said lower half portion, said controller analyzes an operating instruction input through said input keys and carries out the control processing corresponding to an analysis result to reflect the analysis result to the display content of said display screen; [[and]]

a joint unit for joining the respective ~~one~~ end sides of said upper and lower half portions to each other so that said upper and lower half portions are rotatable around ~~said joint unit and each of a~~ a first rotational axis so that in a first state said screen-arranged surface of said upper half portion on which said display screen ~~of said upper half portion~~ is disposed ~~and the opposite surface of said upper half portion to the screen-arranged surface~~ can face [[a]] and overlay said key-arranged surface side of said lower half portion on which said plural input keys are disposed[[.]], and so that said upper half portion is rotatable around a second rotational

axis perpendicular to the first rotational axis at the joint portion between said upper half portion and said lower half portion, whereby in a second state said back surface of said upper half portion can face and overlay said key-arranged surface of said lower half portion; and

a detection unit for detecting whether said portable information terminal is in said first state in which said display screen of said upper half portion faces the key-arranged surface side of said lower half portion or in said second state in which said back surface of said upper half portion faces the key-arranged surface side, wherein said controller controls the control processing in accordance with the detection result supplied from said detecting unit.

--2. - 4. (Cancelled)

--5. (Currently Amended) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim [[3]] 1, wherein said controller controls the display content of said display screen in accordance with [[a]] the detection result supplied from said detecting unit, so that ~~a display~~ an image on said display screen is rotated by 180 degrees.

--6. and 7. (Cancelled)

--8. (Currently Amended) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an operating unit for carrying out the control operation of the display content of said display screen, wherein said operating unit is provided to said upper half portion and/or said lower

half portion so as to be exposed to the outside when said upper half portion [[and]] overlays said lower half portion ~~are overlapped with each other~~, and said controller analyzes an operating instruction input through said input keys or said operating unit to perform the control processing corresponding to the analysis result and reflect the control processing result to the display content of said display screen.

--9. (Currently Amended) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1 further including a radio transmission/reception unit for transmitting/receiving a message in a wireless mode, wherein a message to be transmitted is written onto said display screen by using said ~~plural~~ plurality of input keys only when the screen-arranged surface of said upper half portion and the key-arranged surface of the lower half portion can be visually recognized by a user who writes the message.

--10. (Currently Amended) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a radio transmission/reception unit for transmitting/receiving a message in a radio mode, wherein under ~~such a~~ said second state that the ~~screen-arranged~~ back surface of said upper half portion faces ~~the opposite side to~~ the key-arranged surface side of said lower half portion, said controller neglects a character input ~~even when there is the character input~~ based on [[the]] one of said plurality of input ~~key~~ keys.

--11. (Currently Amended) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a radio transmission/reception unit for transmitting/receiving a message in a wireless mode, and an operating unit for carrying out the control operation of the display content of said display screen, wherein under the second state ~~that~~ in which the key-arranged surface of said lower half portion and the back side of the upper half portion are overlapped with each other and said display screen of said upper half portion is exposed to the outside, only the display operation of the received message onto said display screen is carried out by using only said operating unit.

--12. (Currently Amended) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim [[3]] 1, further comprising a key operating unit which is functionally varied between said first state and said second state.